(b) if so, the assessment of this shortage;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to increase the number of such schools, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount spent during 2002-03 and 2003-04 in this regard; and

(e) the reasons for less expenditure in 2005-06 as compared to the previous years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the 7th All India Educational Survey (September 30, 2002) of the NCERT, New Delhi, there were a total of 90,761 secondary schools in the country as against a total of 65,564 schools in the 6th Survey (September 30, 1993). While according to the 6th Survey, out of the total 1060612 rural habitations, 69.72 per cent and 84.82 per cent had secondary stage schooling/facilities within a distance of 5 Kms and 8 Kms respectively, no such assessment has been made so far under the 7th Survey.

(c) A committee of the Central Advisory Board on Education has been constituted for the first time to look into all aspects of universalisation of secondary education.

The outlays required, if any, for increasing the number of secondary school would depend on the recommendations of the said committee.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Efforts by UNICEF for Tsunami affected children

†2057. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Nations Children Emergency Fund is considering to make efforts at world level to save the children from being mentally affected, who have been separated from their parents during Tsunami disaster;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) UNICEF in India in partnership with other UN Agencies and NGOs, is implementing psycho-social interventions for children who have undergone trauma through teachers and community volunteers. These teachers and community volunteers have been trained in skills to conduct simple and interactive activities which will help children in school as well as out of school to deal with the trauma. The volunteers will also identify children who seem to be at risk of developing long term psychological problems. The identified children will be referred to mental health professionals in the districts.

(c) The Government has supported the interventions being made by UNICEF to help Tsunami victims.

Compensation for Tsunami affected students

†2058. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take special steps to compensate the interruption caused in the studies of the children in Tsunami affected areas;

(b) whether he is having information about the damage to the schools;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the number of students affected by Tsunami?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Information on the damage to schools/colleges of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry etc. and assessment of damage to these schools have been furnished to the Ministry of Home Affairs for appropriate action.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Suicide due to ragging

2059. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.